

Serial No.: 09/981,274

Docket No.: ECV-5627

Amendment dated July 8, 2005

Responsive to Office Action of February 8, 2005

I. CLAIM LISTING**Amendments to the claims:**

1. (Presently Amended) A method of removing ~~infectious agents~~ prions from mammalian soft-tissue, said method comprising subjecting said soft-tissue to extraction with a medium comprising a supercritical fluid, thereby removing said prions ~~infectious agents~~.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein said prions are causative agents of spongiform encephelopathy.
5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said fluid is carbon dioxide.
6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the tissue is treated with about 100 to about 500 grams of supercritical carbon dioxide/gram of tissue.
7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the tissue is treated with carbon dioxide for a period determined as a function of carbon dioxide flow rate in order to permit passage of about 100 grams to about 500 grams of supercritical carbon dioxide/gram of tissue.
8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the tissue is treated with carbon dioxide for a period determined as a function of carbon dioxide flow rate in order to permit passage of about 200 grams to about 400 grams of supercritical carbon dioxide/gram of tissue.
9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the supercritical carbon dioxide is applied at a pressure between about 1×10^7 Pa and about 5×10^7 Pa.

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1 10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the
2 supercritical carbon dioxide is applied at a pressure between about 2×10^7 Pa and 4×10^7 Pa.

1 11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the
2 supercritical carbon dioxide is applied at a temperature between about 40 °C. and about 55
3 °C.

1 12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said
2 supercritical fluid is selected from one or more compounds of the group consisting of
3 fluorocarbons, and alkanes.

1 13. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said
2 fluorocarbons is are selected from one or more compounds of the group consisting of
3 chlorodifluoromethane and trifluoromethane.

1 14. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said alkanes is
2 are selected from one or more compounds of the group consisting of ethylene, propane and
3 ethane.

1 15. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said ~~critical,~~
2 supercritical ~~or near-critical~~ fluid is selected from one or more compounds of the group
3 consisting of nitrous oxide, nitrogen and carbon dioxide.

1 16. (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 ~~animal material~~ mammalian soft tissue is derived from an organ.

1 17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 mammalian soft-tissue is nerve tissue.

1 18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 mammalian soft-tissue is muscle tissue.

1 19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 mammalian soft tissue is adipose tissue.

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1 20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 mammalian soft-tissue is glandular tissue.

1 21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 mammalian soft-tissue is epithelial tissue.

1 22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 mammalian soft-tissue is endothelial tissue.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 mammalian soft tissue is myocardial tissue.

1 24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 mammalian soft-tissue is vascular tissue.

1 25. (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 ~~animal material~~ mammalian soft tissue is lymphatic tissue.

1 26. (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 ~~animal material~~ mammalian soft tissue comprises respiratory tissue.

1 27. (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 ~~animal material~~ mammalian soft tissue comprises digestive tissue.

1 28. (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 ~~animal material~~ mammalian soft tissue comprises sensory tissue.

1 29. (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 ~~animal material~~ mammalian soft tissue comprises urinary tissue.

1 30. (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 ~~animal material~~ mammalian soft tissue comprises reproductive tissue.

1 31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 method further comprises adding a modifier or entrainer to said supercritical fluid.

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1 32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein

2 said modifier or entrainer is a surfactant.

1 33. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31, wherein said

2 modifier or entrainer is water.

1 34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein

2 said modifier or entrainer is an alcohol.

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35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein said alcohol is ethanol.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein said alcohol is n-propanol.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein said modifier or entrainer is a ketone.

38. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 37, wherein said ketone is acetone.

39. (Canceled).

40. (Canceled).

41. (Canceled).

42. (Canceled).

43. (Canceled).

44. (Canceled).